

162 COMMENTARY ON MACAULAY'S
HISTORY

countrey, and your religion/ ¹ To attract
their support,
the Prince placed his fleet under the command
of Admiral
Herbert, and many English sailors
served under him.
Through Herbert and Captain Edward
Russell, who also
sailed in the expedition, he worked on the
malcontents.
According to Russell, eight of Dartmouth's
captains were
resolved to come over to the Prince, and this
statement is
confirmed from other sources. The
malcontents were the
ablest and most influential officers in the
fleet, and their
defection would have been followed by
that of others.
Dartmouth's own loyalty was above suspicion.
Despite
the inferiority of his numbers, he was
prepared to fight the
Dutch fleet whenever he could meet it.
But during the
passage of the expedition down the Channel
the weather
prevented him from getting out of harbour.
Through
Pepys the King expressed his conviction that
Dartmouth
had done ' all that a prudent and careful
admirall could
doe ', considering, as he said, ' the place in
which you
were then hooked and the wind that then
blew to the
benefit of the Holland's fleet, and
disadvantage of yours'/?
After the landing of the expedition at Torbay,
Dartmouth
put to sea intending to attack the Dutch
fleet there, but
was driven back by a storm and his ships
were much

damaged. ' I am sorry you have been so
roughly used by
the winds at sea/ wrote James. ' This is a
bad tyme of

¹ English Historical Review, i. 523, 527. One of the chief
actors in the
conspiracy was George Byng, afterwards Earl of
Torrington, then first
lieutenant of the ' Mordaunt' under Captain John Ashby.
Extracts from
his life were printed by Sir John Dalrymple, in his Memoirs
of Great Britain
and Ireland (2 vols. ; 1771, 1773) ; and in 1889 the life as
a whole was
edited by Sir John Laughton under the title of Memoirs
Relating to the
Lord Torrington (Camden Society). This is supplemented by
the selection
from Herbert's correspondence printed by Sir E. M.
Thompson in the Eng-
lish Historical Review.

³ Hist. MSS. Comm., Dartmouth MSS., i (1887), 186.
Nov. 7, 1688.